

Appendix B

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Draft

xSides™ V. 2.2

Product Spec

Including Portal and Web Jump Features

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xSides V. 2.2 Product Spec

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Descriptions and Definitions

The following document outlines the function and design specifications of xSides, a cutting-edge Pixel Company Product .

Our xSides™ Technology enables users and strategic partners to deliver and access content and applications in an area of the computer display which is outside and independent of the computer's operating system. The xSides enabled area cannot be obscured at any time by the Microsoft desktop or any of the applications present therein.

The xSides product initially appears on the bottom of a computer screen as a thin cylinder icon ("the control bar") containing a series of control buttons (see Page 8, Fig. 4). The control bar is comprised of a number of faces, which we call "Sides™," each of which can contain different combinations of content, applications and graphics (hence the name "xSides™").

The user can easily rotate from one Side to the next with mouse clicks to view and access the different content present on a given Side. The minimum number of Sides in each xSides product is three: one for partner content; one for Help, FAQ and Web support; and one for User Buttons that may be modified and manipulated by the user. (See User Cartridge Function, p. 17.)

xSides includes an additional display area called the xSides™ Portal (see Figure 1). This portal expands below the bar and presents an area for companies to display HTML content (email, banner ads, tickers) outside of Windows. There are no design restrictions placed on content that goes into this portal display area.

xSides is designed to deliver a wide selection of consumer products available through a number of distribution sources such as online, PCs, set-top boxes, etc. Therefore, a partner's specific xSides implementation will be able to exist with other such products in this space.

Each partner can create its own "skin." A skin is the packaging of graphical elements that make up a singular visual presentation style of xSides. These elements include a set of buttons (which exists on each xSide face), tickers etc. xSides products allow partners to modify their look and feel by either adopting one of the skins provided by The Pixel Company, or by designing their own.

xSides is available to partners in two versions:

1. **xSides SinglePack:** The SinglePack product includes the xSides Portal feature and allows partners to build an xSides product that modifies functions of the latest Pixel technology, such as site launching, ticker messaging, and Help functions. Partners can modify the look and feel of xSides within defined parameters (outlined by The Pixel Company), or they can work directly with The Pixel Company to design new, partner-specific design guidelines. Function, size, and number of cartridges will be restricted.
2. **xSides PrePack:** PrePack contains The Pixel Company's pre-packaged partners as content on the bar. The PrePack version will have limited functionality and modification abilities.

1.1: The xSides Portal: Descriptions and Definitions

The xSides technology includes an expanded area where partners can display HTML content (tickers, links, banner ads). The xSides Portal is available to strategic and content partners who wish to provide products and services to their users in an area that is always available and visible--without getting in the way of computer and Web functionality.

The Portal area functions exclusively with the xSides control bar (see Section 2, p. 10). The xSides Portal launches underneath the bar, and responds to xSides commands, such as open, close, refresh, etc. xSides itself functions as stated in Section 2 (p.10) of this document.

The Portal area will always be 70 pixels high x the horizontal resolution of the screen, minus 20 pixels on the right hand side of the Portal area reserved for user controls.

There are no restrictions on design look and feel for content presented in the xSides portal display area. Content partners may work with The Pixel Company to create their own unique design. There are space-use guidelines (p.6) to follow.



Figure 1

1.2: xSides Portal Suggested Space-Use Guidelines

Design specifications are kept open to respond to the requirements of each Partner. However, for product design consistency, the following guidelines should be considered when standard xSides Portal functionality is presented.

1. **Background**
The xSides bar should sit on a black background of the overscan area in which it resides.
2. **Constant Distributor logo**
The left-hand side of the xSides bar will display the Distributor's logo at all times and will remain visible throughout all rotations and uses of each of the bar's faces.
3. **Portal Content logo**
This logo will remain until the user displays another xSides Portal.
4. **Application or link areas**
The xSides Portal gives users access to Web applications, sites and resource links, and tickers. Tickers display scrolling text that, when clicked on, can launch an associated Web page. Text and hyperlinks can be updated as defined in each Partner's contract.
5. **Banner display area**
Several banner sizes are supported in this areas if the Partner chooses to include them.

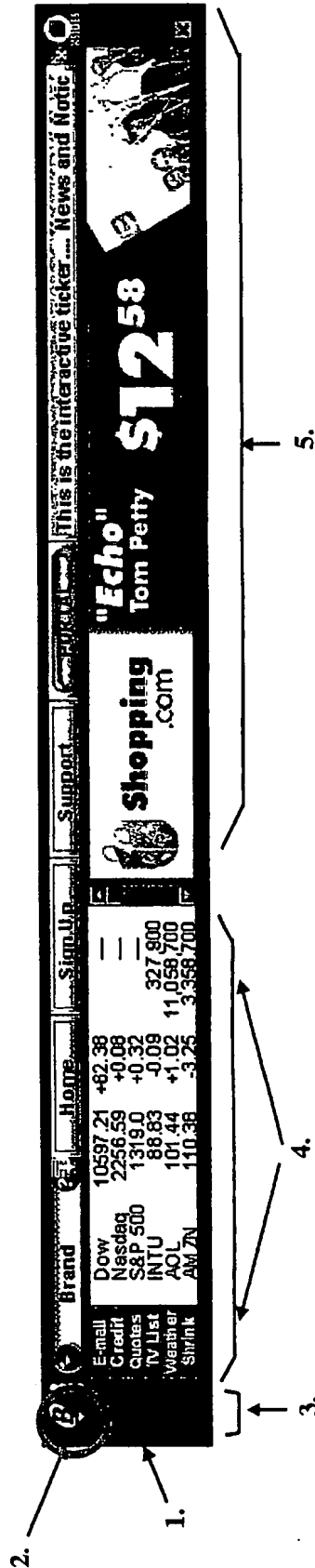


Figure 2

1.3: Sample xSides Portal Implementations

Unlimited new products may also exist in the xSides Portal area. These may include a Calendar and Personal Information Manager (PIM), Stock tickers, etc.. Here are just a few more examples of different Portal implementations.

1.4: xSides Portal: User Interaction Guidelines

Minimizing the xSides Portal

The first time a user opens an xSides product which includes the Portal area, it can launch into its maximized view. This open option may be turned off by the user as well. Each xSides control bar with the Portal feature will have a prominent "Portal" button on the Side. Once the product has been installed, the user clicks this button to show, refresh or hide the xSides Portal area. Each Portal area also has a familiar "X" box in the upper right-hand corner. Clicking here will either launch the Portal, or make it retreat to show simply the desktop, and the xSides bar.

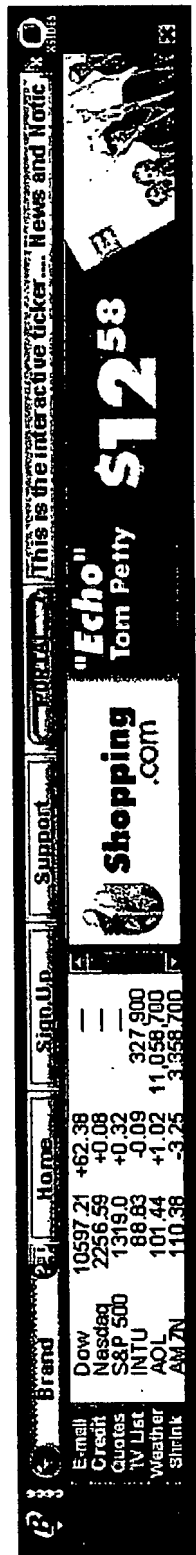


Figure 3

Maximizing xSides Portal Again

When the xSides Portal is in its minimized state (i.e., turned off), the user clicks on the Portal button to bring xSides Portal back to its full viewing size.



Figure 4

1.4: xSides Portal: User Interaction Guidelines, continued

Quick-Jump Feature Between Portals

Users may install and merge several xSides products with Portals. Once this is done, users will be able to quickly jump between them by using a cascading menu system accessible through the xSides logo on the right hand side of the bar.

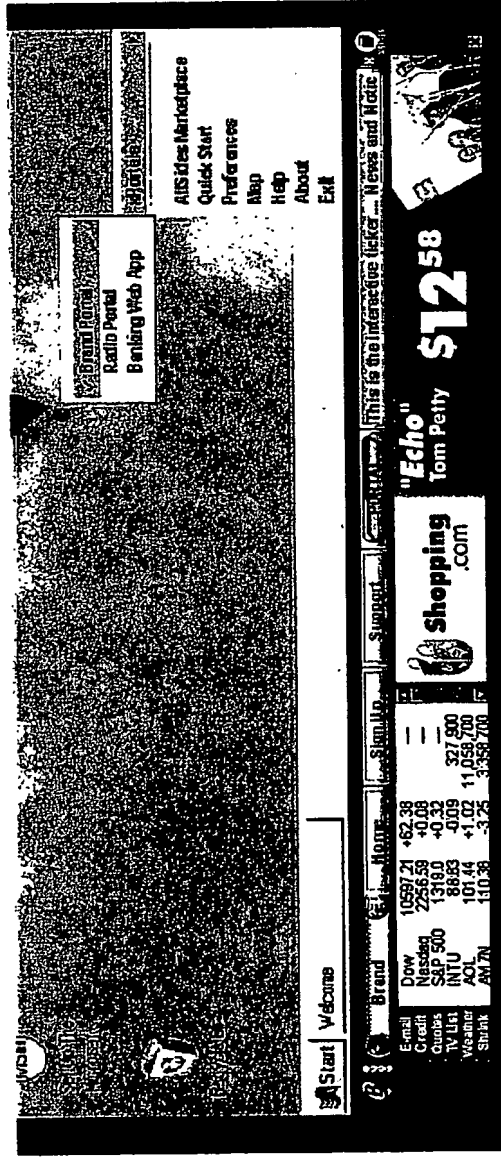


Figure 5

Section 2

xSides SinglePack Design & Feature Guidelines

2.1: The xSides SinglePack Product

xSides Single Pack

xSides provides Partners the option of changing the look and feel of xSides within The Pixel Company's guidelines. A specific set of buttons, or "skins," give Partners a space to customize the way they appear on the xSides bar. Partners may also work with Pixel to have a unique skin built for them, on a for-hire basis, and time/resource permitting. The following restrictions apply to xSides presentation and function:

- The size of the control bar will be the same for all xSides products. This will enable users to mix-and-match xSides bars as they wish, and as they discover new xSides applications in the marketplace.
- Each xSides product will include two additional Sides--a "User" Side and a Help/Support Side. (See "User Cartridge" and "Upgrade and Support" sections, p. 17, 18.)
- The user will be able to remove this application from the computer screen by exiting and/or uninstalling the program from their system, either as part of a larger group of xSides cartridges, or as a stand-alone product.
- xSides products have a limited set of buttons and functionality that must be present and supported in every instance of the product, in addition to Partner-defined buttons.
- The xSide product must be able to rotate.
- The xSide product must contain logos.

2.2: xSides Design and Feature Requirements

1. Preset Buttons

The preset function allows users to "bookmark" specific Sides. Users can set a their selection (CD Player, News & Sports, etc) by right-clicking on the preset button when that particular Side is visible. Once this has been done, users can return to their pre-set destination by left-clicking on that button. Preset Buttons change color once a setting is saved.

2. Category

The major category titles are displayed here, and clicking on then switches categories.

3. Help/?

When the user clicks on the Help/? button, a pop-up window is launched that contains Welcome, Map, Preferences, Help, and About xSides information.

4. Rotator turns

When clicked, Rotators turn the portion of the bar to the right of the Rotator; left click turns to the next Side, right click back.

5. Pixel logo

When cursing over over the Pixel Company/xSides logo, this animated graphic will rotate. The logo button, when clicked, links to The Pixel Company Web site.

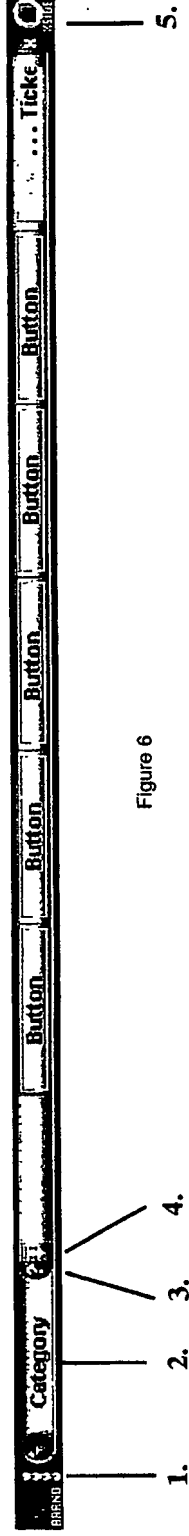


Figure 6

Please Note: The xSides PrePack design will use the standard xSides look, as shown in the example above--with the same feature functionality as the xSides Single Pack.

Figure 7

2.2: xSides Design and Feature Requirements, Cont.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6. Partner Logo | Partner logo is displayed here. A left mouse click links to Partner's Web page. |
| 7. Non-Action buttons | Non-Action buttons function only as title buttons or place holders. They don't launch or highlight and cannot be depressed with a mouse down or keyboard command. |
| 8. Action buttons | Action buttons are depressible and launch Web links. They highlight and function as described under Button Highlighting. (See "xSides Functions" section). |
| 9. Ticker | Tickers display scrolling text and, when clicked on, can link to an connecting Web page. Text and hyperlinks can be updated as defined in each partner's contract. |
| 10. Exit / (X) | When the user clicks on the Exit button (X), a window appears that confirms the user's choice to exit xSides. |

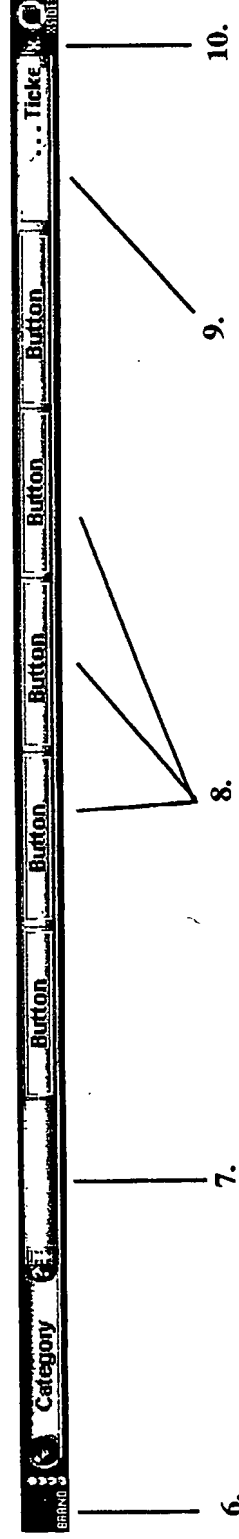


Figure 8

Note:

Logo and Branding Guidelines: The xSides logo and branding is incorporated into the design of the product and the product's download button(s). The xSides/Pixel logo and branding signify that a company uses The Pixel Company's patented technology. The logo and branding can be used to enhance partner marketing materials, including brochures, presentations, and advertisements. The Pixel Co. and xSides logo and branding must be used according to the guidelines outlined in the deliverables. Any deviation from these guidelines must be approved by The Pixel Company.

2.3: xSides Function Requirements

Startup Sequence:

Once the user has downloaded, installed, and launched the xSides program, the user is prompted by a dialog box to decide how they want the product to load. The default here is for automatic load during the Windows boot sequence. While the product software loads, a text message is displayed in the horizontal blank area just below the Task Bar, informing the user that the program is "Adding Overscan Area to Display" or "Initializing xSides Display." (xSides startup does not interfere with the display of startup sequence of Windows.)

At Startup:

Following one of the above text messages, the xSides bar appears, and the Distributor or Sub-Distributor cartridge is displayed--unless the user has set a different startup category under Preferences, accessed through the red "?" button. The first time xSides runs, the Welcome screen appears when the cursor is moved anywhere over the xSides bar.

Rotation Action:

The Rotator turns different elements of the bar. A left-click turns the bar upward to the next face, and a right-click turns it downward to the previous one. The Rotator is the strip located on the left side of the bar, to the right of the red Help "?". The buttons to the right of the Rotator is the section that turns and changes.

Action Buttons:

Action Buttons, when clicked, launch an associated function--application, URL, document, CD player, etc. Buttons with no action function as title areas only, have no associated hyperlink, and do not highlight.

Ticker

Tickers display scrolling text and, when clicked on, can activate a hyperlink to launch an associated Web page. Text and hyperlinks for tickers can be changed and updated. Users will receive the updated Ticker text and URL when they connect to the Web, and xSides is running on their machines.

Button Highlighting:

Mouse over: At "mouse over," a lighting effect appears in the lower-left corner of the button frame.

Mouse down: When the left mouse button is depressed, highlighting indicates that the xSides button is depressed.

Mouse up: When the left mouse is released, the function is activated, and the xSides button appears to spring back, reverting to "mouse over" state, described above.

2.3: xSides Function Requirements (cont.)

Sound:

A subtle sound effect accompanies the rotating action of the bar, to enhance the xSides experience.

Pop-Up Window:

A pop-up window will launch when the user clicks on the "?" button. The pop-up will have tabs such as Welcome, Help, About, Map, and Preferences.

Screen Saver Mode:

The xSides bar slowly rotates through all content when the computer is in Screen Saver mode.

Pop-Up Help

When the cursor rests over a button, a pop-up window appears. Pop-up Help contain sub-level menus, descriptive text, and more.

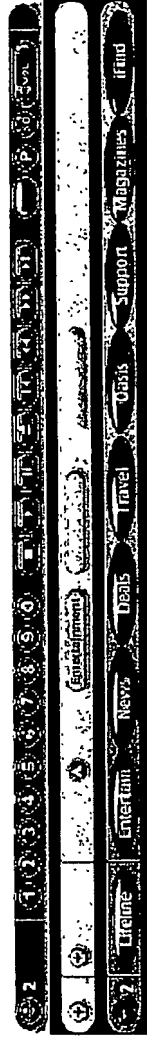
Upgrade Path and Merging:

The xSides upgrade/merge functionality provides some control and flexibility to the user, keeping the application fresh, useful and personalized, one side at a time. xSides technology is designed to be delivered a la carte to users, with the advanced ability to allow users to add new product features and merge any xSides branded products they choose to any other previously installed xSides product(s). Users will be able to upgrade and merge their xSides products via download from our partners', or an xSides web site (under construction). The user will have full discretion to download any number of xSides products.

The Distribution partner maintains persistent branding and content throughout this merging situation. The Distributor's logo and content remains in their current location no matter what other cartridges have been added or deleted. To remove the distributor branding and content, the user must completely uninstall the product.

2.4: xSides Design Themes

xSides provides Partners the option of changing the look and feel of xSides within The Pixel Company's guidelines. A specific set of buttons, or "themes," gives Partners a space to customize the way they appear on the xSides bar. Partners may also work with Pixel to have a unique theme built for them, on a for-hire basis, and time/resource permitting.



(Example of different product "Themes")

Figure 9

2.5: xSides User Cartridge Function

Description: User buttons are found in the User cartridge in xSides. This Cartridge allow users to customize buttons to suit their needs. xSides products come with seven User buttons

Buttons can be added to User Cartridges in a number of ways. Users may add links thereby creating buttons by dragging and dropping (or copying and pasting) into user button frame.

Additional bonus User bars can be added to the User Cartridge when installing another Partner cartridge (each partner cartridge contains a User section. The new User bar is added, titled with the partner's name, containing the link that was just selected.

To clear a User button, right-click on the button, then left-click on "Delete" in the pop-up menu that appears; or, select and highlight a User button and press the DEL key on your keyboard.

To rename a User button, right-click on that button, then left-click on "Rename" in the pop-up menu that appears. Type the new name in the field that appears, then hit "Enter" on your keyboard or click on "Yes" in the pop-up menu. To cancel the change, hit "No."



Figure 10

2.6: xSides Upgrade and Support Function

Description: Each xSides product has a cartridge specifically designated for support and upgrade use. Using these cartridges the user can access links to frequently asked questions, upgrade pages where other xSides products can be found, and receive news and information about xSides products.

This cartridge has one rotation containing a combination of button links and tickers.



Figure 11

2.7: Screen Saver Function

Description: All xSides products will remain on screen at all times, even when the screen saver is activated. The xSides bar and portal will function as specified, slowly rotating through all content.

Section 3

xSides Web Jump Design and Feature Guidelines



3.2: xSides Web Jump: Operations

Two Modes of Use: The xSides "Web Jump" bar will operate in two modes: Search and Browse.

Search:

The bar will first launch in Search mode. This mode will present a side of the bar that holds an entry field for the user to type in search requests, or URL Jump requests. There will be two search functions: Search and Ask. The Search function will launch the default browser, initiate the search using the default search engine, and display the results. Ask will accept plain English language requests and post results.

The user can jump to any location by typing in a standard URL request with either "http:" or "www." at the beginning of the request. If the user presses the Enter key, the program will recognize this as either a search or jump request, and initiate the action.

A "Full View" button will change the look of the bar, so that full Web navigation functions are displayed.



Figure 13

"Browse" with "Full View"

When the "Full View" button is pressed, the right-hand side of the xSides bar will display a similar row of browser function buttons. These will display navigation tools that lets the user move easily around the Web. These functions are further described in the "Appearance" section.

When the user types a request in the Input Field, the default browser will be launched in Full View, a pure Web display area with no navigation bars. The user will now navigate using the buttons in the xSides area. Clicking on the Full View button again allows the user to return to Search View.



Figure 14

Note: All Example xSides Layouts: Specific location of functional buttons may vary according to partner requirements

3.3: xSides Web Jump: Appearance & Action Requirements, Search Mode

Designed to provide quick jumps to the Internet, the user will be able to type in several types of requests and then jump out to the Net to have the action immediately taken. The first face of the Web Jump cartridge the User sees is "Search Mode". The following lists the functions accessed on the Web Jump cartridge.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. "Title" | This is your xSides browser. |
| 2. "Rotator" | This takes the user to the Search mode. |
| 3. "Input field" | This is where the user types in all searches, queries, and URLs. |
| 4. "Search" | This button performs a search on the information typed into the input field. |
| 5. "Go!" | This takes the user to the URL location typed into the input field. |
| 6. "Add to favorites" | User clicks this button to put the Web page currently in use into a Favorites or Bookmarks folder. |
| 7. "Open Favorites" | Brings up the folder with favorite (bookmarked) sites. |
| 8. "Full View" | This launches the browser in Full Screen Mode, and toggles Full View off as well. |

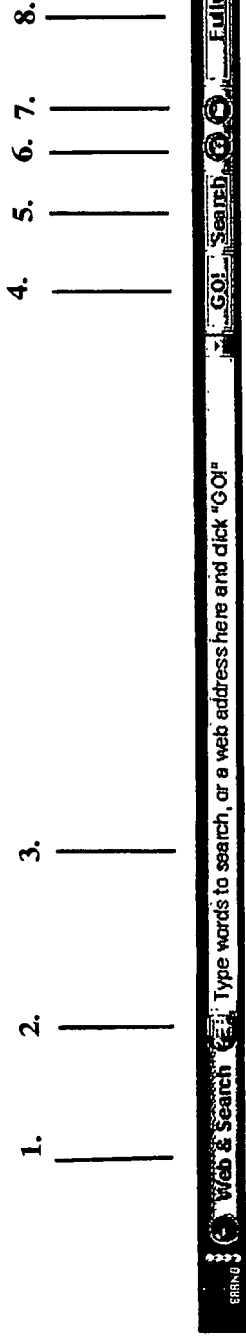
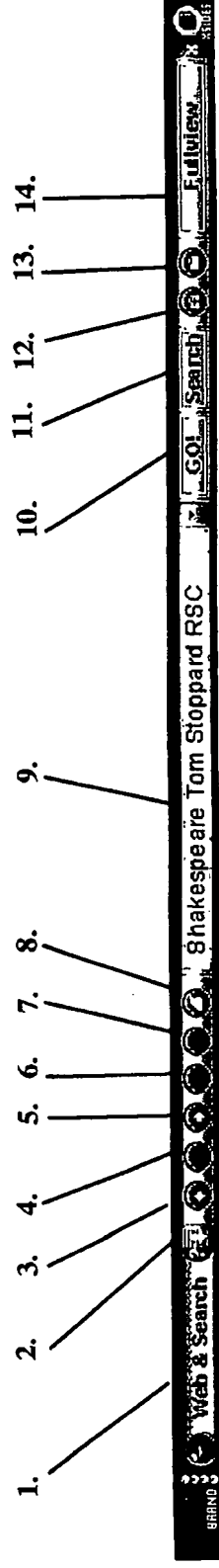


Figure 15

Note: Example xSides Layout: Specific location of functional buttons may vary according to partner requirements

3.4: xSides Web Jump: Appearance & Action Reqs, Browser Mode

1. "Title"
This is your xSides browser.
2. "Rotator"
This takes the user to the Search mode.
3. "Back"
This button takes the user back to previous Web page
4. "Stop"
This button stops whatever Web access action is in progress.
5. "Forward"
This button takes the user forward to previously viewed, but "next" web page
6. "Reload"(Refresh)
This reloads, or refreshes, the currently viewed Web page.
7. "Home"
This button takes the user to their designated home page.
8. "Print"
This button provides browser print functionality.
9. "Input field"
This is where the user types in all searches, queries, and URLs.
10. "Search"
This button performs a search on the information typed into the input field.
11. "Go"
This takes the user to the URL location typed into the input field.
12. "Add to favorites"
User clicks this button to put the Web page currently in use into a Favorites or Bookmarks folder.
13. "Open Favorites"
Brings up the folder with favorite (bookmarked) sites.
14. "Full View"
This button changes the mode to Full View or Regular browser view.



3.5: The xSides Web Jump: Behavior Guidelines

Starting up:

xSides' Web Jump will work with the user's default browser application. The user will launch the xSides Web Jump while in one of three states:

1. Offline, and no browser running
2. Online, and no browser running
3. Online, with another browser running

The xSides browser will launch the user's default browser and will mirror its functionality consistent with the user's understanding and expectation. Therefore, Web Jump will tie into the information stored on the system registry files, or in the shared data files of the user's default browser.

Scenario #1: The user is working offline. With the xSides browser displayed on the bottom of the screen, the user types a question into the input field and hits Search. The logon sequence will begin and a Full View Web window will fill the screen. The user will then navigate by using the controls on the browser bar. (The user will actually be using his default browser functionality, even though its recognizable function bars will not be visible.)

Scenario #2 - The user is online and has no browser running. Same as above, except no logon sequence.

Scenario #3 - The user is online and has browser running. xSides browser will duplicate functions of the Web browser, including Favorites, Home, and other user oriented information. The user will be able to access the same information, in the same display format, by clicking on the same button in each area.

Handling Favorites

The xSides "Favorites" area will read files from the user's default browser. As new URL links are added to the user's default browser, they are also added to the xSides Favorites section, and visa versa. Clicking on the Favorites button in the xSides Browser area will bring up the same dialogue box as those in I.E. or Netscape.

Handling "Home"

A user's start page, the place he goes to first when surfing the Web, will be shared between the xSides browser and the user's default browser settings. xSides Browser will read the registry to deliver the same URL location.

Pop-Up Help

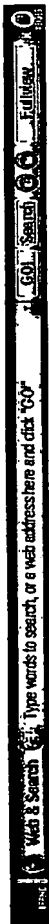
When the mouse cursor rests over a button, a pop-up window appears. Pop-up Help may contain cascading menus, descriptive text, etc.

3.5: xSides Web Jump: Behavior Guidelines, Cont.

Switching Between Full View and Various Sizes of the Regular Browser:

The user will be able to switch between viewing default browser in Full View mode or regular browser display. Both the Search bar and the Browsing bar will have a Full View button displayed on the right of the Input Field. When the user clicks on this button, the screen will expand so the entire viewing area will be filled with the Web window, without any borders, toolbars, navigation buttons, etc. The user clicks the button to toggle between this Full and regular Web views.

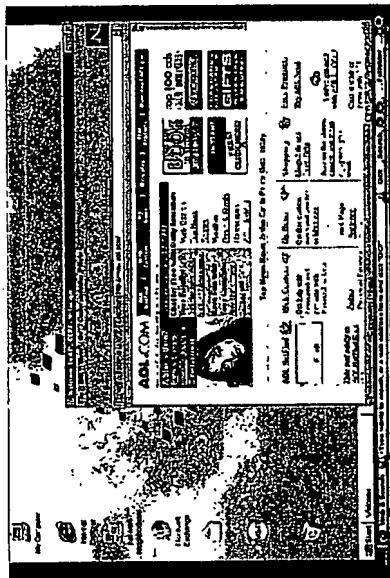
1. **xSides Search mode with Standard browser functionality.** With Search mode the user's default browser will function normally. Users will now simply have the choice of having a Full View mode, in addition to the standard maximize and minimize modes within Windows. When the user is in the Search bar and clicks the Full View button, xSides will rotate to the Full View browsing controls where the user can navigate the web with an expanded Browser viewing area.



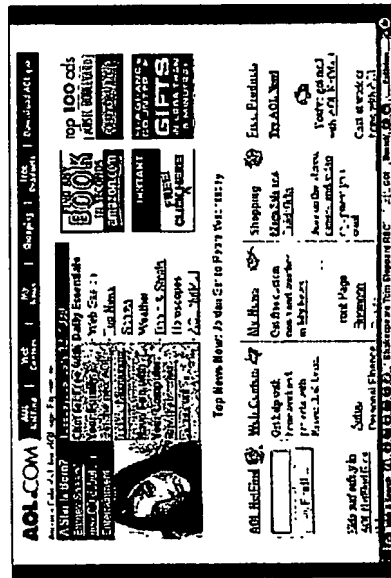
2. **xSides Full View mode with Expanded Browser viewing area.** When the user wants to return to their standard browser viewing mode they click on the Full View button again and it will rotate the control bar back to the search bar and display their default browser.



Figure 16



(Standard browser state)



(Full View browser state)